Power situation in Delhi

*325. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA.†
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi's power situation particularly supply has been steadily deteriorating since the power distribution was privatized a few years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposed hike in power tariff together with large scale faulty bills and installation of defective meters have added to the common man's woes of frequent load-shedding;

(d) if so, action taken/proposed against errant companies for their lapses; and

(e) the measures proposed to give relief to the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

(a) and (b) The determination of tariff as well as regulation of the distribution licensees is the statutory function of the State Electricity Regulatory Commission.

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that there has been improvement in the quality of supply and also in providing facilities to consumers as follows:

- Load shedding which was about 3% in 2001-02 the year preceding privatization has come down to about 0.84% in 2004-05.
- The distribution transformer failure rate has been reduced to less than 1% today from 15% at the time of privatization.
- There has been sufficient addition to the infrastructure such as power transformers, EHV cables, installation of distribution transformers, installation of 11 KV feeders, installation of shunt capacitors etc.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Manoj Bhattacharya.

- There has been a steady improvement in the PLF of the generating units in Delhi. The PLF in 2001-02 was 46.93% and in 2004-05, it was 65.53%.
- Transmission losses of Delhi Transco Limited has been reduced from 3.84% during 2002-03 to 1.3% during 2004-05.
- The average response time for attending to breakdowns has improved considerably.
- Number of options available for payment of bills have increased manifold.
- There has been a reduction in Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) loss levels for all the three Discoms. Details of the targets fixed and achieved are tabulated as under:

	BSES Rajdhani		BSES Yamuna		North Delhi Power Ltd.	
Opening level as per DERC	48.10		57.20		48.10	
Year	Target level	Achieved	Target level	Achieved	Target level	Achieved
2002-03	47.55	47.40	56.45	56.45	47.60	47.79
2003-04	46.00	45.06	54.70	54.29	45.35	44.86
2004-05	42.70	40.64	50.70	50.12	40.85	33.79

(c) to (e) The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission in its tariff order for the year 2005-06 has increased the average tariff for consumers in Delhi by about 6.6% with no increase in rates for J.J. clusters and about 10% increase for domestic consumers.

The Distribution Companies have set up their Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRFs) in accordance with Regulations framed by the DERC. These Forums are in operation since August, 2004. In addition to the Forums, the DERC has also appointed the Electricity Ombudsman in August, 2004 which is the Appellate Body for orders passed by the Forums. The CGRFs and Electricity Ombudsman hear all cases except those relating to theft, unauthorized use of electricity, etc. Till end of July,

2005 about 1550 complaints have been received in Forums, out of which 1300 have been disposed off.

The DERC and the Discoms have separately conducted meter testing drives. More than 91% of the meters tested were functioning within the defined limits. The latest meter testing drive was conducted in association with the Central Power Research Institute and in the BSES areas till mid June, 2005. 515 meters were tested and all were found to be within limits. For NDPL area, till end of July, 2005, 45 meters were tested and all were found to be within limits except one meter which was found to be slow.

DERC has framed the Metering and Billing Regulations in August, 2002 which lays down specific norms which are to be followed by the licensees in the case of new connections, procedures to be followed for replacement of meters, etc. and provide for imposition of penalties for issues, such as, delay in providing new connections, delay in providing new connections, delay in raising the first bill, delay in transfer of ownership, delay in load reduction, etc. Under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, contravention of the regulations is a punishable offence.

DERC has imposed penalties/given compensation in three cases. The Forums have also recently forwarded five complaints to the Commission for imposition of penalties under Section 142 of the Electricity Act, 2003 because of violation of Regulations framed by the Commission. These cases are under process in the Commission.

On account of the poor performance shown by two of the companies with respect to their Capital Expenditure Programme during 2003-04, an amount of Rs. 1 crore each was deducted from their Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) for 2004-05 by DERC.

To enable the regular monitoring of redressal of grievances of consumers, the Electricity Rules 2005 notified by the Central Government prescribes that the Ombudsman shall prepare a report on a six monthly basis giving details of the nature of the grievances of the consumer dealt by the Ombudsman, the response of the Licensees in the redressal of the grievances and the opinion of the Ombudsman on the Licensee's complaince of the standards of performance as specified by the Commission under section 57 of the Act during the preceding six months.

This report under sub-clause (a) above shall be forwarded to the State Commission and the State Government within 45 days after the end of the relevant period of six months.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for providing a very detailed answer. However, the statistics that he has quoted in the statement are far from our real experience because, in Delhi, even in the so-called VIP areas of the North Avenue and the South Avenue, where MPs stay, load shedding is rampant. The load shedding is rampant even in the VP House. The situation has deteriorated very much, even though the statistics say something else. My question arises from this. Following the privatisation of electricity supply and distribution in Delhi, and a very reputed corporate hosue is involved in this....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to your question.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: My question is whether the hon. Minister is aware of the situation, which even the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Shiela Dixit, has termed as one of 'consumer-harassment and terrorism', particularly in regard to the replacement of the meters. The meters are being replaced at the cost of the consumer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply. Then, you put the supplementary. Is there anything to say, Mr. Minister?

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: It is a very serious question. Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARAYA: Sir, am I not to ask the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you have put the question.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the hon. Member has asked particularly with regard to load-shedding, that too, in the North Avenue and the South Avenue area. This area does not come under private distribution companies. It comes under the N.D.M.C. Now, coming to deficiencies so far as the meters and billing is concerned, I have to say that electricity is a State Subject; at the same time, I have to depend on the information from the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission. According to their information, after privatisation, there has been improvement in the situation so far as load-shedding and the PLF are concerned. The AT&C losses have been reduced. As far as billing and metering is concerned, they

have already checked twice. An independent body has also now being approached to conduct another survey to check the veracity of the information. It is true that two to these distribution companies are particularly not in a position to solve these problems and, therefore, the Chief Minister has taken it up with the regulatory commission. They have written twice; and I had also talked to her. Now, that is the problem of metering and...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I would like to ask about the distribution by private companies, particularly following the experience of Delhi and Orissa. Moreover, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has also commented that Delhi has been able to tolerate such huge distribution losses only because of Government subsidy and that the replication of that model across the country would be economically impossible. Now,I want to know whether the hon. Minister agrees with the recommendation of the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and whether he would effect some paradigm shift insofar as the Electricty Act of 2003...*(Interruptions)*... about privatisation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Hon. Minister to pleased reply.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, privatisation, according to my friend, seems to be synonymous with inefficiency and unbundling of the Electricity Act has come in the way of its effective functioning. Sir, I want to tell him and to the House that even today in the country 95 per cent of the distribution is done by the public sector. Only five per cent is done by the private and joint sector and that too, Sir, as far as the Post Electricity Act position is concerned, not a single privatisation has taken place. For his information, particularly, I am giving this. Sir, as far as the Planning Commission's opinion about the loss is concerned, it is true. Before privatisation in Delhi, annually in 1995-96, there were Rs. 500 crores of annual loss and it come up to Rs. 1,200 crores in 2001-02. After the privatisation, the loss for the subsidy was not given to private companies; it was only the State Govt. transmission company which was to meet the loss. Otherwise, the tariff shock ought to have been very much burdensome for the consumer. Therefore, Rs. 3500 crores was given and now, in 2006-07, the entire loss will be wiped off and it will be a turn around situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramachandraiah. He is not there. Mr. Vedprakash P. Goyal.

SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Sir, I refer to the answer to Part (c) of the question. When UPA Government claims working for the common man, for the *aam aadmi*, this burden of 6.6 per cent even for the cluster colonies people is very high and much more so on the people who are living outside these colonies. It is not that common people live only in clusters. There are people who use 1000 units and there are people who use 10,000. So, all those who are outside the colonies have to bear this 10% burden which is too heavy. Has the Government seen to it that there should be some guidelines to take care of such differences? As far as Part (2) of my question is concerned, as this reform process takes root in the country, and privatisation of power distribution which has so many benefits will go ahead. For other cities it may become a benchmark. Can he clarify the situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, please reply to his first part.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, the first part is with regard to the *juggi jopàri* colonies, I think he is referring to that. In this tariff revision, Sir, the juggi jopari families are exempted. The overall average, Sir, is 6.6 per cent. But the domestic increase is to the tune of 10 per cent. Otherwise, supposing it was not privatised, every year 10 per cent could have been raised. Now, because of this, it has come up to 10 per cent. It is beneficial for the country.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, he said the situation is okay in Delhi. In my own house, I made two complaints twice in these 10 days. Three hours breakdown was there in No. 6, R.P. Road in Delhi. No rectification took place for three hours. The situation is so bad. Will our hon. Minister assure us and even to the Members of Parliament whether such breakdowns will be avoided in the future?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I have not given a blank cheque to the distribution companies. What I said was with regard to metering and billing there is a genuine problem and for that it is up to the State Government. They have already taken up. I will also write to her to see that the load shedding could also be taken up by the State Government with the Regulatory Commission so that such problems can be avoided.

Even, Sir, with regard to distribution companies. If non-performing distribution companies are there, even in Orissa, Sir, the Regulatory Commission could, first of all, suspend even the licence and then even revoke the licence. So, that could be possible when the State Government take it up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Harassment for dowry

*326. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women who committed suicide due to constant harassment for dowry by the victim's husband or her in-laws during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases filed against their husbands and in-laws for the last three years;

(c) the State-wise details of such cases;

(d) whether Government had initiated action against persons found guilty; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (e) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects. Therefore, primary responsibility of preventing and controlling crimes against women including dowry related crimes rests with the State Governments. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), on the basis of reports received from the State Governments, has reported that the number of suicides by women due to dowry dispute, State-wise, during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 were 2370, 2378 and 2347 respectively. Detailed break-up is given in the Statement (*See* below).

Data on cases filed against husbands and in-laws of women who committed suicides due to dowry disputes is not maintained by NCRB.